# Who was Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy?

Imagine that you could travel back in time to see Jacqueline Kennedy at different stages of her life. What would you learn about her? (Read the biography of Jacqueline Kennedy for helpful clues.)

1. **As a girl, what were Jackie’s favorite activities?**

**2. Name one experience that was important to Jackie as a young woman, before her marriage to John F. Kennedy. Why was it important?**

1. **As First Lady of the United States, describe any one thing that Jacqueline Kennedy accomplished that you consider important.**

# Jacqueline Bouvier: The Inquiring Camera Girl

**Directions:** In 1951 Jacqueline took her first job as the ‘Inquiring Camera Girl’ for the *Washington Times-Herald* newspaper. Jackie’s job was to go around the city of Washington, D.C., asking citizens questions on the issues of the day. Jacqueline Bouvier asked questions like the ones below. Pair up with one of your classmates and ask each other these questions. Write down your partner’s answers in the spaces provided.

The person I interviewed is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the greatest need in the world today?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you could be an historical figure, who would you be? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you like to be famous? Why?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What person’s death affected you most?Why?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## **The roles of a First Lady: Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy**

**Section I. Directions:** A reporter named Helen Thomas once asked Jacqueline Kennedy the ten questions you see below. Read this questionnaire and answer the questions that follow in section II.

**Q: What are the things you enjoy most about living in the White House?**

**A:** Seeing my husband be a great President.

Q: How far along are you in the executive mansion restoration project?

**A:** All the rooms are done, except for a couple of 3rd floor guest rooms. Now we relax and look for great paintings or objects of historical significance…and work on filling the library with appropriate books.

**Q: What do you hope to achieve in the next two years as first lady?**

**A:** Peace and privacy with my children.

**Q: You have scored brilliantly as a White House hostess. What is your favorite way of entertaining? For how many, etc.**

**A:** 8 people seated for a dinner.

**Q: Who is your favorite president’s wife of the past?**

**A:** Bess Truman – because she brought a daughter to the White House at a most difficult age and managed to keep her from being spoiled so that she found a happy life married with children. Mrs. Truman kept her family close together in spite of White House demands and that is the hardest thing to do – and in my opinion the most important.

**Q: Why do you attend so few political functions with the President?**

**A:** The official side of my life takes me away from my children enough. If I were to add political duties I would have practically no time with them. They are my first responsibility. My husband agrees with this. If he wanted me to come I would.

**Q: You have become known in the country as a skilled sportswoman. What is your favorite sport?**

**A:** To be out in the air away from details – that is why I like to ride [horses] – not for fox hunting just to be with nature.

**Q: If you had it to do all over again, would you like to be an inquiring photographer?**

**A:** Yes. I learned so much about people.

**Q: How do you feel about the press coverage of your activities?**

**A:** The press helped restoration immensely, but private activities are overemphasized.

**Q: What do you think of the public response to your restoration project?**

**A:** Gratifying – because I worked harder on it than I ever have on anything.

**Section II. Directions:** Refer to the questionnaire on the previous page and answer the following questions.

1. Of all the things Mrs. Kennedy wanted to accomplish as First Lady, what does she say mattered to her most of all?

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1. What did she say she wanted most for her children?

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Why do you think having privacy with her children might have been difficult in the White House?

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3. What did Mrs. Kennedy do to restore the White House to make it a beautiful place that reflected America’s history?

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4. Why was the restoration of the White House such an important accomplishment for her?

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**Who will you be?**

What experiences do you think may have helped Jacqueline Kennedy fulfill the role of First Lady so well? (Clue: Think about her family, where she went to school, what her interests and talents were, etc.)

What about you? What do you like to do?

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What do you want to do when you grow up?

What, if anything, would you need to do to prepare yourself to do well at the things you described in the question above?

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